

## Message Text

SECRET

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 ACDA-05 SAM-01

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O R 221005Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6776

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T RABAT 5081

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SP, SS

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA

1. LATE LAST NIGHT SPANISH AMBASSADOR ALFREDO GOMERO CALLED ME ON TELEPHONE IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS RETURN FROM LONG DAY IN MARRAKECH SPENT IN COMPANY OF SPANISH MINISTER AND SPECIAL ENVOY JOSE SOLIA.
2. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT IN VIEW IMMINENT ARRIVAL ASST SECY ATHERTON HE WANTED ME TO KNOW THAT CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN KING AND SOLIS, WHICH HE ATTENDED, "WERE EXTREMELY POSITIVE, DEEPLY REALISTIC AND FULL OF POSSIBILITIES." HE WAS THEREFORE MUCH MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN HE HAD BEEN PREVIOUS DAY (RABAT 5046).
3. I ASKED HIM WHETHER THIS MEANT THAT SOLIS HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN HIS REPORTED ATTEMPT TO HAVE KING POSTPONE MARCH. AMBASSADOR, ANSWERING BY CIRCUMLOCUTION NECESSITATED BY OPEN TELEPHONE LINE, GAVE ME THE IMPRESSION THAT IMMEDIATE RESULTS WERE NOT SO MUCH POSTPONEMENT AS INTRODUCTION NEW CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING

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MARCH WHICH MAY MAKE SAME LESS EXPLOSIVE.

4. I ASKED AMBASSADOR WHETHER SOLIS MISYION HAD BEEN DECIDED AFTER FRANCO'S ILLNESS HAD OCCURRED. AMBASSADOR RESPONDED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE AND IMPLIED THAT THIS ACTION REPRESENTS POLICY OF MEN NOW IN CHARGE IN MADRID.

5. I EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION TO VERY TIRED AMBASSADOR AND REMARKED THAT ANY FURTHER DETAILS COULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO ASST SECY ATHERTON ESPECIALLY IF THEY REACHED HIM PRIOR TO AUDIENCE WITH KING. AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD BUT IN VIEW OF FACT THAT SOLIS WAS JUST THEN REPORTING TO SPANISH CABINET HE FELT CONSTRAINED NOT TO GO FURTHER BUT WOULD SEE WHAT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT HE WILL SEEK GUIDANCE FROM MADRID.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CONCRETE CONTENTS OF ABOVE RATHER GENERAL I HAVE HIGH REGARD FOR GOMERO WHOSE PERCEPTION OF LOCAL SITUATION AND WHOSE IDEAS FOR MOROCCAN-SPANISH RELATIONS CLOSELY PARALLE MINE. HE HAS BEEN PRIME ADVOCATE IN MADRID OF EARLY SPANISH-MOROCCAN AGREEMENT. I THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT HIS IMPRESSIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE ACCURATE. (NOTE: THIS DESPITE FACT THAT BBC THIS MORNING QUOTED MADRID SOURCES AS SAYING SOLIS MISSION DESIGNED STOP MARCH). HOPEFULLY WE WILL LEARN MORE IN MARRAKECH LATER TODAY OR POSSIBLY BEFORE.

7. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND UNCERTAINTIES CREATED BY FRANCO'S ILLNESS IT WOULD SEEM HELPFUL IF FURTHER SECURITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS COULD BE DELAYED UNTIL SITUATION FURTHER CLARIFIED.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SPANISH SAHARA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PBOR, MO, SP, SS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006